

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, ZA, MI

SUBJECT: BANDA WARNING OF ASSASSINATION PLOT

REF: A. STATE 22039 B. 75 BLANTYRE 1407 C. BLANTYRE A-55 OF
12/23/75 D. BLANTYRE 0299 E. 75 LUSAKA 1539

1. BANDA SPEECH OF AUGUST 22 AT CHINGALE IN ZOMBA DISTRICT (CITED REFTTEL A) DOES NOT IN EMBASSY'S VIEW REPRESENT DEPARTURE FROM PAST ANTI-SUBVERSION REMARKS NOR DOES IT ALLEGE GOZ SUPPORT FOR EXILED SUBVERSIVES. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS SINCE BEGINNING OF ANTI-SUBVERSION CAMPAIGN IN LATE 1975 BANDA HAS PUBLICLY GIVEN DETAILS OF EXILES AND THEIR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES MAINLY, WE THINK, TO DEMONSTRATE AND WARN MALAWIANS AND EXILES ALIKE THAT HE AND HIS SECURITY FORCES ARE ON TOP OF SITUATION.

2. IN OUR VIEW, AUGUST 22 SPEECH, WHICH COVERED IN EXTENSO BY LOCAL MEDIA (TO BE POUCHED), DID NOT ALLEGE GOZ SUPPORT FOR MALAWIAN SUBVERSIVES. TO CONTRARY, BANDA QUOTED AS "LIES" CLAIMS OF GOZ SUPPORT BY SUBVERSIVES. HE ANSWERED RHETORICAL QUESTION "HOW CAN ANY MINISTER IN GOZ WHO SAW CROWDS WHO WELCOMED HIM (I.E. BANDA) DURING HIS VISIT THERE...HELP MPAKATI AND HIS NEFARIOUS PLANS" WITH "THE PEOPLE OF ZAMBIA WILL NOT ALLOW THEIR GOVERNMENT TO ENTER INTO CONSPIRACY TO KILL HIM" (I.E. BANDA). IN SAME SPEECH BANDA SAID GOZ MINISTER OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, MAINZA CHONA, WHO REPRESENTED GOZ AT 10TH REPUBLIC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS IN JULY 1976, HAD TOLD HIM THAT "GOZ WOULD ARREST
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ANYONE WHO WOULD TRY TO CAUSE CONFUSION IN MALAWI." THIS IS

SUPPORTED BY EMBASSY LUSAKA'S RECENT COMMENT THAT FOR REASONS OF PRINCIPLE KAUNDA WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE ASYLUM TO MALAWI POLITICAL REFUGEES BUT ONLY AS LONG AS THEY BEHAVE THEMSELVES AND REFRAIN FROM ACTIVITIES THAT MIGHT EMBARRASS ZAMBIA-MALAWI RELATIONS (WILKOWSKI-STEVENSON LETTER OF JULY 6, 1976 WHICH EMBASSY WILL POUCH).

3. BOTH BANDA AND KAUNDA HAVE BEEN TRYING TO KEEP MALAWI-ZAMBIA RELATIONS ON EVEN KEEL AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE EITHER WISHES TO UPSET BALANCE NOW. MALAWI-ZAMBIA RELATIONS ARE BASED ON COMMON HERITAGE AND FUNCTIONAL COOPERATION. BANDA AND THE MALAWI MEDIA HAVE LONG EMPHASIZED THE TWO PEOPLE ARE ONE AND THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THEM ARTIFICIAL. MALAWIAN ROUTE FOR ZAMBIA IMPORTS HAS BECOME MORE IMPORTANT, AS HAS DIRECT TRADE BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES--MAINLY MALAWI FOOD FOR ZAMBIAN MANUFACTURES. ON OTHER HAND, MALAWI DOES NOT SUBSCRIBE TO KAUNDA'S SOCIALISM AND DOES NOT LIKE THE MALAWIAN EXILE COMMUNITIES. ZAMBIA HAS LONG DISAGREED WITH MALAWI'S TRADE AND POLITICAL TIES WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTHERN RHODESIA AND RECENTLY HAS BEEN PERTURBED BY THE MISTREATMENT AFFORDED SOME ZAMBIANS BY BANDA'S ANTI-SUBVERSION CAMPAIGN. HOWEVER, THESE DIFFERENCES HAVE NOT UPSET BILATERAL RELATIONS ALTHOUGH ZAMBIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER HERE HAS DESCRIBED THEM AS MORE CORRECT THAN CORDIAL. RELATIONS ARE AT PRESENT HIGHLIGHTED BY EXCHANGES OF VISITS, MAINLY BY SPORTS TEAMS AND LOCAL OFFICIALS, WHICH GOM MEDIA PLAY UP AS REFLECTIVE OF WARM AND CLOSE TIES.

4. BY WAY OF BACKGROUD, CURRENT ANTI-SUBVERSION CAMPAIGN, WHICH STARTED IN NOV 1975, STILL CONTINUES (REFS B,C AND D). BANDA AND HI OFFICALS HAVE REPEATEDLY WARNED MALAWIANS TO BE ON LOOKOUT FOR STRINGE FACES IN VILLAGES AND TO SUSPECT A CHIUME CONNECTION OF EVERYONE COMING INTO MALAWI FROM TAFTANIA AND ZAMBIA. VIGILANCE AGAINST SUBVERSION HAS BEEN A WATCHWORD IN MALAWI FOR YEARS AND HAS EVEN BEEN EXTENDED TO CERAIN TYPES OF CLOTH AND AR WORKS. OF LATE, EMBASSY HAS HAD SOME REPORTS THAT DISSIDENT ELEMENTS HAVE ATTEMPTED TO ENTER LOWER WHIRE FROM MOZAMBIQUE BUT HAVE BEEN QUICKLY ROUNDED UP BY EFFICIENT SECURITY NETWORK. HOFFMAN

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